

**THE INFLUENCE OF KINDNESS TO PEOPLE RELATIONS IN
WONDER BY R. J. PALACIO: A HUMANISTIC
PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor
Degree of Education in English Department**

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti pengaruh kebaikan oleh August, pada *Wonder* karya R.J Palacio. August Pullman adalah anak memiliki kecacatan fisik disebabkan oleh penyakit sejak dia lahir. Peneliti mendeskripsikan mengenai kondisi hubungan dengan orang disekitarnya dan kebaikan dari August. Dalam meneliti *Wonder*, penelitian ini menggunakan humanistik psikologi untuk menganalisis penelitian ini. Penulis menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk melengkapi analisis dalam novel. Kebaikan August yang tergambar pada *Wonder* memiliki beberapa macam seperti: kepercayaan diri, keberanian, kepintaran, dan baik hati. Hasil dari kebaikan tersebut dapat merubah pandangan positif untuk orang disekitarnya dan memberi pengaruh positif juga untuk mereka. Dengan meneliti kondisi hubungan August dalam kehidupannya, hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa *Wonder* memberikan penggambaran yang jelas mengenai pengaruh kebaikan August terhadap orang disekitarnya yang terbagi menjadi 4 hubungan yaitu, orang tua, saudara perempuan, sahabat, dan teman disekolahnya. Kebaikan August diakui oleh orang banyak. Mereka berpikir bahwa memiliki ketidaknormalan fisik bukan berarti tidak memiliki kelebihan salah satunya yaitu kebaikan. Dia menjadi laki laki yang lebih baik untuk orang lain.

Kata kunci: pengaruh kebaikan, kebaikan, hubungan, pendekatan humanistic perspective

Abstract

This study aims to examine the influence of kindness by August in *Wonder* by R.J Palacio. August Pullman is a child who has a caused by illness since he was born. The researcher describes the condition of the relations with the people around him and the kindness of August. In researching *Wonder*, this study used humanistic psychological to analyzed this research. The writer used descriptive qualitative method to completing the analysis novels. August's kindness has several kinds such as: self-confidence, courage, intelligence, and kindness in *Wonder*. The results indicate that kindness can change the outlook of positive for those people in around him and also influenced positive for them. By examining the condition of August's relations in his life, the results show that the *Wonder* provides a clear description of the effect of August's kindness on the people around him which is divided into 4 relationships, namely, parents, sisters, friendship, and friends in his school. August's kindness is recognized by many people. They think that having physical abnormalities did not mean that they do not have advantages, one of them is kindness. He is to be better boy for other people.

Key word: the influence of kindness, kindness, relation, humanistic perspective

1. INTRODUCTION

Kindness is not about look for attractive from others people. The power of kindness is a respect for others who also have loved Where the form of kindness and interaction with someone loved him can be in the form of parental attention to the child. In general, kindness is something that desired which is cultivated and become a human goal. Human behaviour is good and right, if the behaviour towards human perfection. Kindness is called value, if the good is for someone to be a concrete of kindness. Man determines his behaviour to aim and choose the path taken. Man must have the final goal for the direction of his life.

This novel describes how to be more sensitive to people who have limitations or are different from others who are more important when we see how important that kindness. Kindness is an attitude that is friendly, careful and caring for others. Besides that kindness is also interpreted as a sense of affection, caring, warmth, and tenderness that is shown through words or behaviour of someone. Someone who has goodness requires courage and strength, because being a better person requires a process that is not easy. Sometimes kindness arises from ourself but it can also arise from the influence of others who can motivate them to do kindness.

Relations can define that the continuity interaction between many persons that easy to introduce themselves. Relations occur in every process life human. Relations do not only occur between two people but it happens to friends, friendship, family, parents, and social environment.

J.C. Palacio tells the story about August Pullman who is the tough and sweet boy. He was 10 years old who was born with the abnormal face. He has a craniofacial disorder that can cause people who see him to be scared or laugh at him. It also makes it difficult to hear and smile. Because it is different from the others, August Pullman had to stay at home for a long time, he also home schooling. August parents loved her and supported her to be able to go to school like any other child. He began interacting with his new friends who were in August school not having any friends in his life, but after starting at school, he was liked by some good friends. August had three good friends, Christopher, Jack, and Alex, but Christopher moved away from school, so he doesn't meet with August. It was they who saved August

from his alienation and misery at school. They loved being friends August. He was a fun, kind, and smart kid of science. Finally, the school principal gives award to August as a brave child, and did not give up in all facing the reality of his life. That way the other August friends really like his kindness all this time.

In fact, *Wonder* is the first series of her children literature by R.J. Palacio 2012. She created the novel because she was inspired by her meet with a child who was in ice cream shop by having an abnormality on her face, which at that time Palacio brought her 3 years old son. Child disabilities has dicriminated by the society. The writer has idea to defend that disability also has superiority that other people can not see that. Natalie Merchant's song *Wonder* made her realize that the event could describe a valuable lesson. Palacio was inspired by the song lyrics titled wonder. That is why the researcher strongly believes that *Wonder* is the novel which children's characteristic who is discriminated by the society because of his physical appearance. Therefore, the idea of conducting a research about influence of kindnes to people relation reflected in this novel becomes an interesting topic to be anlayzed, even more by using a humanistic psychological perspective to support the research.

2. METHOD

The research applied qualitative research in analyzing *Wonder* novel by Palacio (2012). Bryman and Bell (2007) qualitative research as the research strategy concern with the theory and research. The writers tend to use qualitative research in occasion to get deeper data and being closer with the research. The technique used in analysing data is descriptive analysis. The study will concern with the interpretation of the data *Wonder* novel and dealing with the humanistic psychological perspective applied by researcher to find *The Influence of Kindness to People Relation* through indicators related to the theory. The object of the study is divided into two: formal object and material object. The formal object is the issue that will be discussed by the writer. The issue concern on influence of kindness in people relation. While the material object of the study is *Wonder* novels by R.J. Palacio. The source of primary data is taken from *Wonder* novel by R. J. Palacio. The secondary data are from other sources, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis including

books a virtual reference as documentation. It deals with text and with problem of this research. Secondary data was derived from any other sources The writer used library research technique in collect the data. Moreover, the writer does firstly reading and making notes the important things in the novel such as narrations, the opinions and the dialogues that has information. After that, using humanistic psychological perspective to answer these questions: What are the influence of kindness August Pullman's to people relations? And How does relation between August Pullman's and people in around him?

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Influence of Kindness of August Pullman to People Relation

3.1.1 Confident Person

August is confident child to face in new environment that refers to Poston (2009) which the higher form self-esteem requires less maintenance because through accomplishment, it becomes a permanent part of who the individual is. People can say that once a person has gained respect for himself or herself, it is much harder to lose that respect or to have it taken away. The idea of confidence in ability, the mastery of something, or the competence that is established in what these people do, supports this higher form of self-esteem. One day, August's family went to go to school to sending him, but on the way to school which August's dad told August about a funny thing to make August laugh. His mother and sister also tried to make August laugh. It is the way to build good mood of August because he did not like to send on the regular school. August parents can be calming down to August in facing his felling sadness. They hope that August get good education or knowledge from the school, besides he also gives new environment and new friends.

August must to send in the school because it is make better for him. August interacted with Mr. Tushman well and he did not seem doubt to communicated with him. Decrease of August's mom anxious because her son is confident for going to school. He gets more confident and can develop his mental. Finally, August wanted to meet with the principal in the school. August and his Mom meets with Mr. Tushman at the school. His Mom tells about August to Mr. Tushman that he is her

Son at Beecher Prep school. August can be confident because of the motivation from his parents to send him in the new school.

3.1.2 Kind Hearted Person

August is increasingly confident that he is able to prove to everyone that having always been bad but has an extraordinary heart that can inspire all people. August received an award as the greatest student who has great strength, good heart, from Mr. Tushman as the principal. August's parents improved that their boy truly is a wonder like their speech. August thinks that no need to do best to others because they did not best than him. He believed that even though many people did not like him, but people are loved him and cared for him. For him that best person is his family. They always support and motivates for August to be confident person and kind heart person. They loved him and want to August has better future. He got much scorn than praise but his family and friends did. His family very respect and care for August. His parents revealed that they were very proud of August, because of August who has abnormal appearance that has kindness to others, and why for the normal person cannot do as August did. While August has abnormal face but it is a very special gift for his family.

Love needs included giving and receiving affection. When there is he love needs, it make people unsatisfied. They can feel lonely. In other words, they will hunger for relations with people in general for a place in the group of family, and do something negatively. The effect such as: Loneliness, rejection, attractions, friendliness and rootlessness are preeminent (Maslow, 2000). Although August has different appearance with normal people, but he is a kind hearted person, because his parents give him love needs. August is not loneliness because it will cause something negatively, so as a parents or environment not to leave him.

3.1.3 Being a Courageous person

Courage is an attitude to do something without worrying too much about bad possibilities. People have the courage will be able to live their dreams and change their personal life as well as those around them. In the novel occurred that August is a courageous person. Palacio wants to show that August is a courageous person. He is able to handle his self and his difficulties. This dialogue below shows it:

Auggie's Mom : "I'm sorry, Auggie," she said quietly. Her cheeks were bright red.
Auggie : "No, it's okay, Mom, really."
Auggie's Mom : "You don't have to go to school if you don't want, sweetie."
Auggie : "I want to,"
Auggie's Mom : "Auggie ..."
Auggie : "Really, Mom I want to." And I wasn't lying.
(Palacio, 2012, p. 34)

The dialogue above tells that nature retreat is come to fifth grade in the August school. August cannot sleep without stuffed animal, while he decided to leave his stuffed animal at home instead of bringing to it to nature camp of fifth grade. He knows that brave to sleep without it at nature camp. He shows his brave for his Mom:

I took Baboo back to my room, and I laid him in my bed and taped the little note to Mom on his chest. And then I covered him to my blanket so Mom would find him later. The not read:

Dear Mom, I won't to need Baboo, but if you miss me, you can cuddle with him yourself. XoAuggie

(Palacio, 2012, p. 256)

The quotation applied that Palacio wants to show that August is a courageous person. He is able to handle his self and his difficulties. Influence of the courageous made anxiety of August's mom because she has not be habitual to let August go far without her.

3.1.4 Clever person

August is to be clever because of he always studied at home. His parents send a teacher to teach him at home since he five years old. Clever always associated with academic achievement, because clever people always struggle with science. Clever person is able to digest everything perfectly so that they have very extensive knowledge, and that knowledge is the main weapon. August and Jack followed the test at the school, and they succeed to do it. Besides, they followed the project

science fair to makes The Spud Lamp and they succeed to do it. Jack and August becomes partner to make the project science, and they are best students to make this project in class. All the science projects fair are set up in the gym. Jack is happy because of August is the best partner to finished the science fair. Influence of clever that was Jack who did not smart became motivating because of August cleverness.

3.2 The Relation between August Pullman and people in around him

In addition, people also need time and energy to spend meeting with their partners. With us having relation with other people, it is easy to solve problems together and support each other. People can ask for help from partner so that it does not carry a heavy burden for early self. The need for social relation is a fundamental human motive, and it is increasingly clear that feeling socially connected confers mental and physical health benefits (Hutcherson, et.al, 2008).

3.2.1 August Parents

At the top of parents' many wishes is for their children to be happy, to be good, and to be well-liked. In the experiment in Vancouver that children are instructed to perform three acts of kindness. The result of the experiment that children in well-being, but children who performed kind acts experienced significantly bigger increase in peer acceptance than children who visited places. Increasing peer acceptance is a critical goal, as it is related to a variety of important academic and social outcomes, including reduced of being bullied (Layous et.al, 2012).

August parents are hesitant to send August at a regular school because he usually studied at home. The doubts of his parents are that August would get a mockery from his friends who would make August trauma to leave the house without using the mask. August disagrees with going to school, but the struggle of the August parents to persuade him did not stop. His parents kept on telling funny stories until finally August said "I smiled even though i didn't want to let them see me smile" (Palacio, 2012, p. 15). The aim are to calm the August mind or not to be afraid to do new something. They will always convince August not to worry about going to school. Because he is different from the others, August Pullman had to stay at home for a long time. Due to this state, his parents wanted him to do homeschooling.

August parents loved her and supported her to be able to go to school like any other child. His parents want August to be a strong child and confidence. In addition, August parents hopes that he can establish a good relation with his friends. It makes the right decision and learns about the many things that August is going to give the best for their children. They will do best anything to his child. Child needs a safe family environment as the manifest. In the home need security with warmth and love. When a family dysfunctional, it makes the child difficult to improve of social needs because fear is often present (Poston, 2009). August parents protected of August feeling. They did not want to make August feel that they lost him in the school like so. They make August knows that they keep protect him although he has to go to school.

3.2.2 August Sibling

August is intimidated by his friends. He would never have to go back to school. August has a sister named Via. She always gave advice till he would return to school. August has the desire to be an ordinary man like any other normal child. Via reminds of August that his desire to be a normal man. August will think that he must prove or archive that desire. The quotation below shows it:

“Now, unless you want to be treated like a baby the rest of your life, or like a kid with special needs, you just have to suck it up and go”
(Palacio, 2012, p. 115)

It contrast that Via is kind of protective sister of August, but she is maybe not quite as protective as his mom and dad. Via is deliver harsh-yet-good message to August. Motivation theory is different with behavior theory. The motivation is give the effect for behavior. It is identical with biologically, culturally, and situational (Maslow, 2000). Via thinks that August needs motivation and inspiration to continue school to grow up like other normal child. She really wanted that his brother could interact with the new environment.

3.2.3 August best friend: Jack

Jack is one of August's best friends. He is not perfect man and he is not feel sensitive like Summer. Jack knows what right and wrong to do. He is not kind of kid who thinks a lot about the things he did or it is impact on others, but he is kind hearted

person and courageous. He is the kind of person who will protect the underdogs of the world. Jack shocked to the first see August appearance, horror, fear and ultimately guilt. He is not interest to know all about August. At the time, they know each other. They are also the class same and Jack sit beside of August. Sometimes, they are become best partner to be kind person. Although one of their views supported by previous research conducted by Thomas (2002) show that a high-quality friendship is characterized by high levels of prosocial behavior, intimacy, and other positive features, and low levels of conflicts, rivalry, and other negative features. Friendship quality has been assumed to have direct effects on many aspects of children's social development, including their self-esteem and social adjustment. Recent research suggests, however, that friendship quality affects primarily children's success in the social world of peers.

Friendship quality could also have indirect effects, by magnifying or diminishing the influence of friends on each other's attitudes and behaviors. Having high-quality friendships may lessen children's tendencies to imitate the behavior of shy and withdrawn friends, but little evidence supports the hypothesis that high-quality friendships magnify friends' influence. Jack protected of August from naughty friends who bothered him. Besides, he gives motivation or convincing of August to always strong and not really ignoring the cheats of friends who are naughty. That is way August must be a child full of confidence.

3.2.4 August friends at school

August gets intimidated from bad boys, children who had social contact with classmate with disabilities had significantly higher scores on measures of emotion understanding and acceptance of individuals with disabilities than did children who had contact only with typically developing classmate (Diamond, 2001), but there are some friends who support him except Jack. They are Summer and Charlotte. August got something bad from his friends, but summer always stayed to calm August with his kindness. August always sat alone at lunch in the school, but summer came to August to eat with together. He thought that there are no problems sit with August. He did not care about the risk that her friends would stay away from Summer. He thinks that August is a kind man and so did Summer and Charlotte. He reminded

August to be happy with Julian and his friends. Julian always bullying to August's every day. He did not believe anything what August do and talk.

The effect of bullying is made August feel scared, it is long lasting effect to August. Julian underestimate of August which he distrusted that August can science elective. Julian thinks that child like him not be smart because August never after school, but August did not respond about Julian talk. Even though, Julian did not like August very much, but there are some friends who defended him. They did not like that the nickname said badly to August. They are Jack, and Charlotte. The research was conducted by Rigby (2003) investigated that the impact of bullying of children is health outcomes for children persistently bullied by their peers. The result from cross sectional surveys suggest that being victimized by peers is significantly related to comparatively low levels of psychological distress and adverse physical health symptoms. Bullying can created factor in school children's lowered health and well-being and that the effects can be long-lasting. In Longitudinal studies indicates that the tendency to bully other at school significantly predicts subsequent antisocial and violent behavior.

4. CONCLUSION

In researching Wonder, this study used humanistic psychological to analyzed this research. Humanistic theory focused on human as a unique creature. Later, it is used to give a great resistance towards behaviorism that focus on stimulus and response. Behaviorism theory focuses on stimuli and response which done on animal. In the novel, August disagrees to be sent the regular school because he is embarrassed with his abnormal face. He is scared to become bullying and his friends can not to accept him to become friends in class, but of his kindness can be inspiring to other people around him. Finally, they can accept August and especially his friends in the school.

Palacio tries to create idea kindness in novel *Wonder* (2012) becomes an interesting issue to discuss August's kindness has several kinds such as: self-confidence, courage, intelligence, and kindness in *Wonder*. The results indicate that kindness can change the outlook of positive for those people in around him and also influenced positive for them. By examining the condition of August's relations in his

life, the results show that the Wonder provides a clear description of the effect of August's kindness on the people around him which is divided into 4 relationships, namely, parents, sisters, friendship, and friends in his school. August's kindness is recognized by many people. They think that having physical abnormalities did not mean that they do not have advantages, one of them is kindness. Dia menjadi laki laki yang lebih baik untuk orang lain.

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